

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A water intake riser that can be suspended from a vessel comprising a riser connected to a riser hanger, which riser hanger comprises: a first tubular element[[,]]; a second tubular element to which the riser is connected[[,]]; a flexible load transfer element joining the tubular elements[[,]]; and a hose of which the ends are secured to the adjacent ends of the tubular elements.
2. (Original) The water intake riser according to claim 1, wherein each tubular element is provided with a cross-shaped internal having means for securing the flexible load transfer element to the internal.
3. (Currently Amended) The water intake riser according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the flexible load transfer element is a chain.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~Vessel~~ A vessel provided with at least one water intake riser ~~according to any one of the claims 1-3, that can be suspended from the vessel comprising a~~ riser connected to a riser hanger, which riser hanger comprises: a first tubular element; a second tubular element to which the riser is connected; a flexible load transfer element joining the tubular elements; and a hose of which the ends are secured to the adjacent ends of the tubular elements, wherein the first tubular element is secured to the vessel.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~Vessel~~ The vessel according to claim 4, which is provided with at least two water intake risers[[,]] and with at least one riser-spacer comprising: interconnected guide sleeves[[,]]; one guide sleeve for each riser[[,]]; wherein each guide sleeve defines an aperture[[,]]; which aperture allows a riser to pass freely through it and allows limited rotation of the riser about a horizontal axis[[,]]; and wherein each riser-spacer element is suspended from the vessel to a predetermined depth.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Vessel~~ The vessel according to claim 5, wherein the number of water intake risers is between two and eight.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Vessel~~ The vessel according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein the length of the guide sleeve is in the range of one to four times the diameter of the riser.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Vessel~~ The vessel according to ~~any one of the claims 4-7~~ claim 4, wherein the hull of the vessel is provided with at least one opening, ~~one opening for each~~ for the at least one water intake riser[.]; and wherein an upper end of the first tubular element of ~~each~~ the at least one water intake riser is supported in the opening.